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RR RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHIHL RUEHKUK
DE RUEHC #1362/01 2401923
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R P 281917Z AUG 06
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHWKR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 5198
INFO IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 141362

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/29/2031
TAGS: ASEC MARR MOPS PREL IZ PL
SUBJECT: IRAQ: GUIOANCE FOR U.S.-POLAND BILATERAL

REF: (A)WARSAW 862, (B)WARSAW 833, (C)BAGHDAD 1290

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CLASSIFIED BY NEA DAS, L. Victor Hurtado, Acting. REASONS
1.4. (A), (B), AND (D)

¶1. (C) Department instructs a delegation led by Deputy S/I Barbara Stephenson to participate in bilateral talks with Poland on August 31 in Warsaw to discuss Poland's leadership of the Multinational Division - Center South (MND-CS) in Iraq. The purpose of the talks is to convey the outlines of the USG and MNF-I desired posture for Polish troops in Iraq in 2007, consult on the composition of that posture and means to achieve it, and to provide an overview of the U.S. strategy for victory in Iraq with emphasis on the value of Poland's contribution to that goal.

Background

¶2. (C) Poland's contributions to Iraq are significant in that it commands one of the three internationally led divisions, in addition to the UK in the south and the South Koreans in the north. Poland is committed to its deployment of 900 troops until January 2007 (REP A) despite doubts that Defense Minister Sikorski raised last spring by suggesting a reduction by half and closing one of two camps mid-2006 (REP B).

¶3. (C) This visit is also timed to address key Iraq-related issues prior to the visit of Polish PM Kaczynski to Washington in mid-September, and to shape Polish expectations for the MNF-I Coalition conference in Warsaw the first week of October.

INSTRUCTIONS

¶4. (C) Department instructs a delegation led by Deputy S/I Barbara Stephenson and including, among others, a general/flag officer from CENTCOM, to gain as firm as possible a commitment from Poland to extend its presence in Iraq through 2007 at existing force levels. State Deft representatives should provide an overview of Iraq political and economic developments, including but not limited to the viability of Maliki's unity government, UN Security Council resolution mandate for 2007, and the outlook for Iraq's reconstruction. Department of Defense representatives should provide an overview of military factors affecting Iraq's security and stability including, but not limited to: training and readiness of the Iraq Security Forces, threat of the Sunni insurgency, and the threat of sectarian violence including militias.

¶5. (C) On the relative importance of Poland's two camps in

Wasit (Camp Delta) and Al Qadisiyah (Camp Echo), the delegation should emphasize the following points:

--We need Poland to continue its leadership role in MND-CS, particularly maintaining the command structure of MNO-CS.

--Other contributors to MND-CS will look to Poland in deciding their own future contributions.

--We need Poland to stay the course in Iraq. Any change in force levels needs to be based on the actual security situation on the ground.

--MNF-I, looking through 2007, has requested that Poland retain two-star-level command of MND-CS, continue logistic support and Quick Reaction Forces capability for MND-CS, and that MNO-CS maintain operations at both Camp Delta and Camp Echo to facilitate Coalition operations in the area.

--NATO needs to increase the pace of training in Iraq and we would encourage Poland to continue to support this effort.

¶6. (C) Delegation should outline steps USG has taken to keep Polish sector contributors Slovakia and Mongolia in Iraq, and solicit Poland's views on next steps, including options in the event of Slovakian/Mongolian withdrawal.

¶7. (C) Contrary to earlier views on Polish leadership of a Provincial Reconstruction Team (REP C), the Department is for now not actively seeking Polish leadership. In light of administrative and organizational challenges involved

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in internationally-led PAs, combined with the unlikely prospect of U.S. financial assistance to Poland for this effort, Department instructs the delegation to focus on the more widely agreed core equity of Poland's military contribution to Iraq's security and stability.

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